by Prof C.W. Wright

Mr. President, Doctor and Mrs. Mead, and friends of the College here gathered:-

The most beautiful stories of the world are those of fulfilled desire, and it is to the opening chapter of such a story that we have come today. I esteem it a peculiar privilege that it falls to me - as an older member, not a better; as one who has awaited, not more earnestly but longer, the coming of this hour - to express in however imperfect a fashion the joy of the Faculty in this realization of a cherished hope. That joy is common to us all - to students and alumni, to Trustees, Faculty, and friends - but the deepest satisfaction should be found in the hearts of the Faculty, for the reason that of all these groups it is they who should appreciate most fully our need of the chapel that is here begun. How, indeed, could it be otherwise? They are in daily touch with the college life, as Trustees and Alumni cannot be; and that touch is prolonged, as the undergraduate touch is not, through an ever-increasing number of college generations. I would not minimize others' delight in the great good fortune that we share. The Corporation may well rejoice in this generous benefaction, with its timely and convincing proof of a strength for Middlebury commensurate with her days. Nor will any one question, who knows them well, the happiness of our students in the prospect now unfolding. The thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts. Oftener than the world believes, there is, I doubt not, in student minds, beneath their careless seeming, a wistful longing, an unsatisfied hunger, for the deep things of the Spirit; nor do I doubt that this latest gift has kindled in student hearts a hope,

vague and unformulated, perhaps, but real and rich in promise, that with this chapel there is coming for Middlebury a new and better order in which they are to have a part. All this is true, yet nevertheless it is the Faculty to whom for years the need must have seemed most pressing, and to whom in consequence the splendid possibilities of that new order should reveal themselves most fully.

Archbishop Temple, himself for years a second Arnold at Rugby, said once to one who was reconstructing an ancient grammar school, "If I were making a school, I should create the chapel first of all." There is no true pedagogics in any other plan: the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. And I trust that in the truest sense Middlebury College, from the very first, has been built about her chapel; how else account for that bead-roll of her sons whose consecrated service in every field has been for more than a hundred years her chief cause for pride? Nor would I exalt unduly the need of a stately structure for the effective fostering of spiritual life; it needs but the dream of a ladder and of angels ascending and descending on it, to make of even a desert place a veritable house of God and gate of heaven. But the soul, with artist instinct, has ever craved embodiment in form - "For soul is form, and doth the body make" - and vaulted nave and rhythmic hymn are alike the outcome of its Godward aspiration. Such an embodiment should this structure be. Happy this institution if the chapel we have here begun - a chapel whose very lines, I trust, as they rise upon this summit, may prove for us all in the years to come a compelling call to goodness; whose very atmosphere, I trust, may dispose

our hearts to praise - shall be but a fit expression, a symbol in stone, of the mingled strength and beauty of the Middlebury life.

The Faculty thank you, Governor Mead, from profoundly grateful hearts. You have bodied forth our dream of years; you have given to an airy nothing a local habitation - and not the least of our pleasure is the thought that through all the days to be it will bear your honored name.